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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
16 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence) *aw/d*
SUBJECT: Offshore Island Situation

General

Military activity in the offshore island area continues at a low level. Meanwhile the Chinese Nationalists have reaffirmed their intention to fight for all islands they now hold. Chiang Kai-shek has repeated assertions that the US is pledged to defend Nationalist island outposts, and has said he considers Nanchishan to be one of the islands in the Matsu group, 85 miles to the south. The Peiping radio has reiterated that "no force can halt...the liberation of Taiwan (Formosa) and other islands off the Chinese coast."

Nanchishan

MAAG Formosa reports Communist naval vessels patrolling the area north of Nanchishan and believes the Communists will move more naval strength into the Nanchishan area to harass Nationalist vessels. Movements of Communist troops onto islands north of Nanchishan are also expected, but there is as yet no solid evidence that these moves have taken place. A road on Tungtou Island, about 25 miles north of Nanchishan, has been repaired to accommodate vehicular traffic. This island might be used to stage troops for invasion of Nanchishan.

Matsus

Negative.

Quemoy

Communist troop movements in the Quemoy area continue and it is believed that Communist forces there have been redeployed into the Weitou area. Weitou is a peninsula northeast of Quemoy from which Communist artillery could fire on the Quemoy airstrip and the LST beaches along the southern shore of Quemoy.

PACOM Review
Completed

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Weather

For the next 48 hours weather suitable for flying,
difficult for naval operations.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director,
Current Intelligence